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SENATE RESOLUTION 131
By Herron

A RESOLUTION to commend the organizers of the Country Music Marathon on the success of their first race held on April 29, 2000.

WHEREAS, the 26.2 mile distance foot race known as a marathon, named after the distance run following the battle of the Greeks and the Persians in 490 B. C. to inform the citizens of Athens of the Greek victory, has long captured the imagination of distance runners and spectators; and

WHEREAS, such a race has been a part of the modern Olympic games since their institution in 1896 and represents for its winners the pinnacle of their athletic careers; and

WHEREAS, in this century marathon races have been instituted in a number of cities, attracting hundreds of world class athletes and thousands of other citizens who count it an achievement just to finish the grueling distance; and

WHEREAS, marathons serve to showcase cities, and, because of the attention and media coverage that they attract, can provide a great boost to charitable activities which may be associated with them; and

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WHEREAS, on Saturday, April 29, 2000, the inaugural Country Music Marathon was held, starting at Centennial Park, traversing the city of Nashville north and south, east and west, and ending in Adelphia Stadium; and

WHEREAS, the route was punctuated with 47 live bands performing country music at 27 stations and the finish line as well as cheerleading teams from across Tennessee for the benefit of runners, volunteers and spectators alike; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee responded enthusiastically with hundreds of volunteers who staffed water and refreshment stations, registration, start and finish lines and T-shirt booths; and

WHEREAS, the Music City Marathon drew approximately 9,500 registrants from the community, the nation and the world, of which number some 7,500 actually ran the course; and

WHEREAS, international visitors won the race with Luke Kibet of Kenya winning the men's title with a time of two hours and twelve minutes and Lucia Subano, also from Kenya, winning the women's title with a time of two hours and thirty-seven minutes; and

WHEREAS, there were also 13 age categories for each gender as well as a wheelchair division and some \$100,000 in cash and prizes were awarded; and

WHEREAS, many of our legislative family participated in the marathon, including Senator Blackburn's husband, Representative Maddox's intern Jessica Peccolo, Legal Services Attorney Joe Barnes and his wife, Mary, as well as the sponsor of this resolution; and

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of spectators enjoyed the race live in addition to hundreds of thousands who saw the race on ESPN; and

WHEREAS, approximately \$3,400,000 was raised nationally by the participating Leukemia Society Team in Training chapters with the Tennessee chapter alone raising \$500,000, and with seventy-five percent of the funds going to leukemia research; and

WHEREAS, the marathon organizers, volunteers, runners, musicians, cheerleaders, corporate sponsors, the Department of Public Works and the Police Department of Metropolitan Nashville Davidson County, and the Nashville Sports Council all worked cooperatively to make

the inaugural Country Music Marathon an outstanding success, both in terms of fundraising for leukemia research and for the positive exposure of Nashville and Davidson County and the state of Tennessee to the world; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we congratulate and commend the organizers of the Country Music Marathon and all others involved for the outstanding success of the inaugural race and wish them every success for their future events.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.